

Listing of the Claims:

1 - 11 (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a fluid distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of adjacent thin wall metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces and end portions, each end portion having a squared cut terminal end and a rounded cross-sectional configuration, wherein a pair of the pipe squared cut terminal ends of the adjacent pipes are positioned in a parallel and an end to end relationship to each other, and wherein the pair of the pipe squared cut terminal ends essentially abut each other ;

a strip of a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape wherein a portion of the strip is applied around and over the exterior surfaces of each of the abutting pipe squared cut terminal ends, and wherein the strip of double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has a first end and a second end and said second end forms an overlap over the first end and contacts the first end; and

a coupling clamped over the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

13. (Previously Presented) The sealed joint of claim 12, wherein the coupling has clampable ends and wherein the clampable ends are positioned and secured together over the overlap of the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

14. (Previously Presented) The sealed joint of claim 12, wherein the pair of abutting pipe squared cut terminal ends are butted as close together as possible and a portion of the strip of double-side adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is secured to the exterior surfaces of each of the adjacent pipes for providing a sealed joint.

15 - 24 (Cancelled.)

25. (Previously Presented) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of thin wall metallic pipes having axial lengths with smooth interior and exterior surfaces along the entire axial lengths, each pipe having extremities, wherein each pipe is positioned in a parallel and an end-to-end relationship to each other forming abutting extremities;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape having a normal tensile strength of at least 80 - 110 lbs./in² to aluminum at room temperature, wherein a portion of said double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is wrapped around the exterior surfaces of each of the abutting extremities for providing a leakproof joint and a smooth interior surface at the joint;

and a coupling having clampable ends, clamped and secured together over the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

26. (Previously Presented) The seal joint of claim 25 wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is precut so that a second end of the precut tape overlaps over and contacts a first end of the precut tape around said pipe extremities forming an overlap approximately 3/16" - 1/4" long and at least one of the clampable ends has a tongue extending therefrom, wherein the tongue is positioned directly over the overlap.

27. (Previously Presented) The sealing joint of claim 25, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape further provides a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72° and 500 grams at 150°F, has a peel adhesion rating for stainless steel at room temperature of at least 18 lbs./in.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Previously Presented) The sealing joint of claim 27, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed cell acrylic foam tape is applicable on the pair of pipe extremities at a temperature as low as 32°F.

30. (Previously Presented) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces, the pair of metallic pipes each have a terminal end abutted in an end-to-end relationship to each other;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape applied around the exterior surfaces of each of the abutted terminal ends, wherein the adhesive foam tape has an axial length and the axial length of the tape is positioned essentially parallel to the abutted terminal ends, and wherein the adhesive foam tape has one end overlapping and secured to an opposing end of the tape forming an overlap; and

a coupling clamped over the acrylic foam tape, wherein said coupling has a pair of clampable ends secured together and tightened over the overlap of the tape and wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has the following properties: a peel adhesion rating of at least 18 lbs/in² at room temperature for stainless steel, a normal tensile strength to aluminum at room temperature of at least 50 lbs./in², a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72°F and of at least 500 grams at 150°F, a dynamic sheer of 40 lbs./in², a static sheer of 250 grams for 10,000 minutes and a temperature tolerance of at least 160°F.

31. (New) In a sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the improvement comprising:

a pair of adjacent thin wall metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces and end portions, each end portion having a squared cut terminal end and a rounded cross-sectional configuration, wherein a pair of the pipe squared cut terminal ends of the adjacent pipes are positioned in a parallel and an end to end relationship to each other, and wherein the pair of the pipe squared cut terminal ends essentially abut each other;

a strip of a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape wherein a portion of the strip is applied around and over the exterior surfaces of each of the abutting pipe squared cut terminal ends, and wherein the strip of double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has a first end and a second end and said second end forms an overlap over the first end and contacts the first end; and

a coupling clamped over the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape, wherein the coupling has clampable ends and wherein the clampable ends are positioned and secured together over the overlap of the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape, and wherein the pair of abutting pipe square-cut terminal ends are butted as close together as possible and a portion of the strip of double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is secured to the exterior surfaces of each of the adjacent pipes for providing a sealed joint.

32. (New) In a sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the improvement comprising:

a pair of metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces, the pair of metallic pipes each have a terminal end abutted in an end-to-end relationship to each other;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape applied around the exterior surfaces of each of the abutted terminal ends, wherein the adhesive foam tape has an axial length and the axial length of the tape is positioned essentially parallel to the abutted terminal ends, and wherein the adhesive foam tape has one end overlapping and secured to an opposing end of the tape forming an overlap; and

a coupling clamped over the acrylic foam tape, wherein said coupling has a pair of clampable ends secured together and tightened over the overlap of the tape and wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has the following properties: a peel adhesion rating of at least 18 lbs/in² at room temperature for stainless steel, a normal tensile strength to aluminum at room temperature of at least 50 lbs./in², a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72°F and of at least 500

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grams at 150°F, a dynamic sheer of 40 lbs./in², a static sheer of 250 grams for 10,000 minutes and a temperature tolerance of at least 160°F.